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to: (a) the binding between opposing bases of the first and second strands; (b) the binding between opposing bases of the third and fourth strands; and (c) the binding between opposing bases of the second and fourth strands. See Fig. 6. --

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1 and 11 as follows:

1. (Amended) A multiplex structure comprising:
a first strand containing a first sequence of nucleobases;
a second strand containing a second sequence of nucleobases,
wherein said second strand is associated with said first
strand by Watson-Crick bonding;
a third strand containing a third sequence of nucleobases; and
a fourth strand containing a fourth sequence of nucleobases,
wherein said fourth strand is associated with said second
strand and said third strand by Watson-Crick bonding, and
wherein at least one nucleobase of said fourth sequence
of nucleobases is associated by Watson-Crick bonding to
at least one nucleobase of said third sequence of
nucleobases and to at least one nucleobase of said second
sequence of nucleobases.

11. (Amended) The multiplex structure of claim 1, wherein
B11 each nucleobase in said second sequence and said fourth sequence
binds to two other nucleobases.
